

As winter starts, Kurds face new hardships

SAYID SADIQ, Iraq (AP) — Cold rain heralds the start of a winter in northern Iraq — and new suffering for 3.5 million Kurds trying to sustain their de facto state.

In December, the first snows could block roads and leave them without food and fuel.

U.N. agencies and Western governments are scrambling to provide relief. But in the Kurdish town of Sayid Sadiq, about 55 kilometres southeast of Sulaymaniyah, there is a sense of impending disaster.

"If you don't give us a hand, we die this winter," said Hussein Abdul Rahman, a middle-aged Kurd who has lost a leg to a land mine.

His two daughters were mixing mud with straw to smear on a roof to prevent it from being blown away by the wind.

The settlement was one of about 4,000 Kurdish communities damaged or destroyed by the Iraqi forces. Hastily reconstructed with U.N. assistance before last winter, the town of 30,000 people is still surrounded by thousands of tents.

Mr. Abdul Rahman's small son was busy hawking Iranian kerosene on the roadside. The family set up this "business" by

selling remaining belongings — including vital blankets.

"We have no fuel to cook," Mr. Abdul Rahman said in an interview earlier this month. "Well, nothing to cook either," he added, causing the circle of onlookers to burst into laughter.

The Baghdad government has cut off the already limited supplies of food and fuel to the north, causing prices to skyrocket.

Turkish trucks, engaged in an illegal trade of cheap Iraqi diesel, were hauling supplies from Turkey. But Turkish Kurds, angered by the Iraqi Kurds' attempts to move them away from their sanctuaries, block the traffic.

Luxembourg kerosene is sold in Sayid Sadiq for 100 times its cost before the Iraqi blockade. Unable to pay, people look for substitutes.

Cars and old women carrying loads of wood fill the streets, and the hills are becoming stripped.

"If it goes like this, Kurdistan will become a desert in a few years," said Salah Hafid, the Kurdish finance minister.

To cut the wood, villagers often pay a heavy price in limbs lost to millions of mines planted on the mountains by the Iraqi troops.

An Oct. 22 U.N.-Iraqi accord allowed a crash relief programme, but the needs keep increasing.

Relief officials say the villagers have some survival skills, but they fear for the residents of towns, many of whom have already sold virtually everything they own.

Mohammad Hadi, an official of the World Food Programme (WFP) last month said 33,000 tonnes of food would be distributed to 750,000 Kurds from December through March. Last week, the WFP announced a stepped-up programme to benefit 450,000 more people in central and southern Iraq. It said 49,000 tonnes of food worth \$22 million would be distributed. Shipment of the first 15,000 tonnes was to start this week.

The U.S. Congress has appropriated \$43 million for relief, and the European Community has allocated \$20 million.

In Ankara, Iraqi Kurds negotiating with the government to hire 300 trucks for aid deliveries. But U.N. officials were worried about the passage through southeast Turkey, where separatist Kurdish rebels torched several trucks in Turkey last month.

Militant attacks hit tourist business in Luxor

LUXOR, Egypt (R) — Muslim militant attacks are scaring foreigners away from Luxor, site of some of Egypt's most magnificent temples and tombs, and ordinary Egyptians who depend on tourism for a living are angry and frustrated.

Boatmen on hundreds of lateen-sailed feluccas and larger river cruisers moored along the palm-lined banks of the Nile wait in the baking sun unbathed. Drivers of horse-drawn cabs on the edge of the bazaar find few customers.

"Those hitting the tourists should be hanged immediately because they are strangling the country. They are destroying the country and destroying us," said Mohammad Al Mar'at, a 45-year-old tourist guide in the ancient Luxor temple beside the Nile.

The latest attack on foreigners took place just 60 kilometres north of Luxor in the town of Qena last Thursday when gunmen ambushed a bus and wounded five Germans.

It was the fourth serious attack on tourists since militants fighting an open war against the government in the southern Nile Valley warned foreigners in September to stay out of the area. In the worst incident, a British woman was shot dead last month.

Talaat Fakhri Al Rawi, a 20-year-old boatman who said his job supported 10 other members of his family, said he would nor-

mally be hired by tourists for river trips at least three times a day.

In the last two days he had not been out once — and this should be the start of the peak season. "Business is bad. Tourists are becoming suspicious of us. I can see the fear and suspicion in their eyes," he said.

Mr. Rawi said that before the latest attack, tourists would get on his boat and not worry where he was taking them.

"Yesterday I had Germans on my boat and I wanted to take them to the Bird Island. They were edgy, they were asking many questions. They were very suspicious," he said.

In the bazaar, plain-clothes police mingle with tourists and traders in the narrow streets where almost every shop sells souvenirs — carpets, jewellery, silver, cloth, traditional embroidered dresses and hand-made straw baskets.

They checked why a reporter was asking questions and ordered boys touting for souvenir business to stop bothering foreigners.

"Those hitting the tourists are mad, terrorists and criminals. They want to impoverish the country. They are killing us," Ali Ahmad Rida, 30, said in his carpet shop. "They are depriving us of water and air. Tourism for us is like water and air."

Three million tourists visited Egypt in the year to last July, earning the country \$3 billion. Many came to Luxor.

Almost everyone questioned in Luxor, populated by a mixture of Muslims and Christians like most towns and villages in upper Egypt, said tourism was their only possible livelihood. Many said they had inherited their share of the trade from fathers and even grandfathers.

"We haven't got anything else. We haven't learned to do anything else. Tourism is our only source of living," said Adel Rahim, 33, a Christian with a shop selling cashmere cloth.

Luxor, 600 kilometres south of Cairo, is a conservative town where Islam is strictly observed but residents accept the Western customs of visitors.

As prayers blare from mosque loudspeakers after nightfall, women wearing shorts and T-shirts stroll freely down the street by the Nile alongside Egyptian women clad in long black robes.

"We have got used to see them wearing shorts. It does not affect us. They have their own traditions and habits and we respect them. We also have our own beliefs. A true Muslim should not look at something forbidden," Nasri Naim, 27, said in his jewellery shop.

Mahmoud Rajab, waiting for a tourist to hire his horse-drawn cab, argued: "If tourism is destroyed, we are all destroyed... If it was not for this carriage, 15 people would not have food to

eat. We should protect the tourists because we earn our bread from them."

Many tourists, frightened by the attacks, have cancelled trips to Luxor.

But others, shrugging off the risk, are strolling through the archaeological sites where five German tourists were wounded in an attack on their bus last Thursday.

"We thought of cancelling, many of our friends did," said Gabriella Blumstein, a 29-year-old interior designer from Germany. As she arrived at Luxor Airport, "We were very scared of the terrorists. We're counting on our own luck."

Many of the tourists who travel to Egypt each year visit this southern Nile Valley town, travel agents and hoteliers say business is still brisk but cancellations have begun pouring in.

"We got some cancellations," said Suzanne Saad, a reservation manager at the five-star Movenpick Hotel in Luxor. "It is 20 to 30 per cent cancellations for November after the attack."

Fathi Salibi, manager of the American Express Travel Office in Luxor, said tourists who had already paid for their trips were still coming but new reservations, particularly for charter tours, were slack.

Many tourists questioned in Luxor said they had flown from Cairo instead of risking land travel through militant strong-

holds like Dayrat or

"If the attack had not been there, I would have changed the plans," said secretary Gudrun Schumacher. "I felt very angry when news and pictures of the attack came."

But American Brad 31 felt the risk was in Egypt and only attacked," he said. "To Los Angeles where I am, the risk of being hit is the same."

Groups of visitors snapped photographs of a pile of Karnak, built by pharaoh Amenhotep III 3,500 years ago, and of the crossing to the Valley Kings, magnificent but the ancient Pharaohs.

One man said he had a pesky street seller hawking wire in Cairo for an attacker.

"I got very scared in Luxor. A man grabbed me and wanted to buy something, but I found out he was a human, 29, an economist from Germany."

In Cairo, Tourism Minister Foad Sultan met President Mubarak Monday to discuss new tourism projects and foreign investors.

He said it was proof that tourists were failing to industry.

Hizbollah declares solidarity with Bosnia

BEIRUT (AP) — The Iranian-backed Hizbollah Tuesday declared solidarity with Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina and accused the West of planning to eliminate the Muslim presence in Europe.

"It is our duty to be with the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina in confronting the Serbs," declared Sheikh Naim Qassem, the second-in-command of Hizbollah, or Party of God.

Sheikh Qassem accused the world of "collaborating against our Muslim brothers. The Europeans want to eliminate the Muslim presence there so they can have a clean Christian Europe."

"The Americans want the Europeans preoccupied with this problem in addition to eliminating the Muslim presence in that area," Sheikh Qassem told a one-day conference in support of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Serbian forces have seized about 70 per cent of Bosnia, which was about 43 per cent Muslim, since the republic voted for independence on Feb. 29. Much of the rest is held by Croat militias, with only Sarajevo and a few other towns still held by the Muslim-led government.

At least 14,000 people out of a population of 4.3 million have been killed this year in Bosnia-Herzegovina and more than 1 million forced to flee.

The conference, a day after the U.N. Security Council voted to tighten economic sanctions against Serbia, was sponsored by the Committee in Support of the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina, which groups representatives of Shi'ite fundamentalist Hizbollah and two Sunni Muslim fundamentalist factions in Lebanon.

The committee's spokesman, identified as Ali Atwi, said at least 400,000 displaced Muslims are threatened by a cold winter in poorly equipped refugee camps in nearby countries.

He claimed that the better equipped Serbs have killed at least 125,000 Muslims, including 15,000 children, captured more than 130,000 and destroyed 650 mosques.

Serb militiamen, he claimed, had raped more than 30,000 women and "at least 15,000 of them are pregnant."

The bearded Atwi, addressing the conference at Beirut Wimmer Haus Hotel, pleaded with "all Muslims worldwide to exert pressure on the United Nations to

protect Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina."

He said the committee has opened accounts at two banks in Beirut to accept donations "for our Muslim brethren."

Mr. Atwi, in a dialogue with reporter after delivering his speech, refused to confirm or deny reports that the fundamentalist Shi'ite Muslim Hizbollah was sending volunteers to help Muslims in Bosnia against the Christian Serbs.

Iran has been accused of trying to send weapons to the Bosnian Muslims.

The Security Council voted 13-0 for a naval blockade on the Danube River and the Adriatic Sea as a way of stepping up pressure on Yugoslavia to end the fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

China and Zimbabwe abstained because they believe the Serb-led Yugoslav government has no significant control over the Bosnian Serbs.

Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan, Jordan and other Islamic countries wanted the council to lift the arms embargo on Bosnia so it could rearm and acquire heavy weapons, but the Council refused.

"We came here to talk about the prisoners," one woman shouted from the gallery.

The debate on the prisoners was shorter than they expected and ended in a decision to refer the problem back to a parliamentary committee.

People in the gallery shouted "shame, shame" and arguments broke out between disappointed relatives and others trying to calm them down, many women wept.

The speaker of parliament, Ahmad Al Saadoun, suspended the meeting of parliament for half an hour but it was a further hour before members managed to agree the protesters.

"The government has done nothing because all they think of is politics," said Amin Jassem, who lost his 25-year-old son.

"They haven't given the problem enough attention. We should knock on every door," said Khalid Al Sania, a founding member of the Independent League of Relatives of Prisoners of War and Missing People. Four of his relatives went missing during the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait in 1990 and 1991.

The league complained that the government's own National Committee on Prisoners had been slow to document the cases of the missing people and was not following up all leads.

But for the purchase of a few submarines, they kick up a storm and claim that the balance in the region has been disrupted," he was quoted as saying.

Last September Iran began to flex its military might, which was nearly flattened in the 1980-88 war with Iraq, by claiming sole sovereignty over Abu Musa Island.

The strategic island at the mouth of the Gulf, through which 20 per cent of the world's oil supplies pass, had been jointly controlled by Iran and Shahrjah, one of the United Arab Emirates' seven states, since 1971.

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nians or the Kurds in Turkey or the Croats — are entitled to their own country," Mr. Eizenstat said.

Citing a "sense of rejuvenation" in both elections in both countries, Mr. Eizenstat called on both governments to "seize the moment, to move boldly and decisively to deal with problems at home and abroad" — The Jerusalem Post.

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Relatives of missing Kuwaitis disrupt parliament

KUWAIT (R) — Impatient relatives of missing Kuwaitis disrupted the Kuwaiti parliament for an hour and a half Tuesday to demand the government and parliament do more to secure their release.

About 500 parents, wives and children packed the public gallery for a debate on the 850 or so missing people, whom Kuwaitis believe are in Iraqi jails.

They brought yellow ribbons, large photographs of their loved ones and posters and banners saying "do not forget our prisoners of war."

They began to lose patience when members of parliament spent more than half an hour debating whether strict Muslim women who cover their faces should be allowed to attend classes at the medical faculty of Kuwait University.

"We came here to talk about the prisoners," one woman shouted from the gallery.

The debate on the prisoners was shorter than they expected and ended in a decision to refer the problem back to a parliamentary committee.

People in the gallery shouted "shame, shame" and arguments broke out between disappointed relatives and others trying to calm them down, many women wept.

The speaker of parliament, Ahmad Al Saadoun, suspended the meeting of parliament for half an hour but it was a further hour before members managed to agree the protesters.

"The government has done nothing because all they think of is politics," said Amin Jassem, who lost his 25-year-old son.

"They haven't given the problem enough attention. We should knock on every door," said Khalid Al Sania, a founding member of the Independent League of Relatives of Prisoners of War and Missing People. Four of his relatives went missing during the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait in 1990 and 1991.

The league complained that the government's own National Committee on Prisoners had been slow to document the cases of the missing people and was not following up all leads.

GCC summit to be held even if Qatar boycotts

MANAMA (AP) — The annual Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit will begin on Dec. 21 in Abu Dhabi even if Qatar boycotts it, a leading Bahrain daily reported Tuesday.

The pro-government newspaper Al Ayan quoted "informed GCC sources" as saying that preparations were proceeding normally.

It said that the host president of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, will soon be sending invitations to his counterparts in the Saudi Arabian-led group of Gulf

Arab nations.

"As a result of contacts and consultations among the GCC countries, it has been agreed that the summit conference will be held on the mentioned date even if one of the countries does not attend," the paper quoted a source as saying.

A border dispute between Qatar and Saudi Arabia flared on Sept. 30 in an exchange of gunfire in which two people died. The Saudis have dismissed it as an accident, while Qatar suspended a border agreement and, despite Saudi refusal, has been insisting

on fresh negotiations on the lines.

Mediators have been trying to cool the situation but Qatar Saturday was absent from a key GCC meeting in Kuwait of Defence ministers of the alliance.

There has been no word from Qatar as to the fuller implications of that absence.

The alliance groups Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman and the UAE and was formed in 1981 by the Gulf Arab nations in quest of a common market and collective security.

The leaders meet once a year and the summits are hosted by rotation.

Al Ayan said that Qatar has so far "failed to find a brotherly solution of the dispute between the GCC countries because of Qatar's stance and its part in all meetings."

Qatar is also for water boundaries, the case unilateral national court in spite Bahrain's insistence that a petition should be submitted.

investigate whether it violated the law.

About \$5 billion in loans, some backed by the Atlanta-based and helped Iraq buy food before the Gulf.

Last month it was that the Central Intelligence failed to give the parliament cables and documents suggesting the office made the knowledge of BNL as

Justice prosecutors in the illegal loans sold former Atlanta BNL manager, Christopher Dr

Rafsanjani: Arms reports are alarmist

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's president said Tuesday that Western "ballyhoo" about his country's arms purchases was aimed at exerting political pressure on Tehran and scaring its neighbours into buying more weapons.

Iran's purchase of two submarines from Russia has concerned regional Arab countries and U.S. officials who believe the subs, the first in the Gulf, could tilt the regional balance of power in Iran's favour.

The radio, heard in Nicosia, quoted President Hashemi Rafsanjani as saying Iran did not aim

to become the region's foremost military power, which it became in effect after Iraq's defeat in the 1991 Gulf War.

The "ballyhoo" about Iran's arms purchases is aimed at putting political pressure on Iran and scaring regional states so they (Western countries) can sell them more arms," the radio quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as saying.

In his speech to high-ranking Information Ministry officials, Mr. Rafsanjani blasted Western countries for ignoring extensive arms purchases by other countries in the region, especially Israel.

"But for the purchase of a few submarines, they kick up a storm and claim that the balance in the region has been disrupted," he was quoted as saying.

Last September Iran began to flex its military might, which was nearly flattened in the 1980-88 war with Iraq, by claiming sole sovereignty over Abu Musa Island.

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JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Documentary
19:00 News in French
19:15 Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Saved by the Bell
21:00 Spotlight
21:30 Cuckoo
22:00 The Court Breakers

PRAYER TIMES

04:41 Fajr
05:01 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:20 Dhuhr
14:14 Asr
16:39 Maghrib
17:55 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Swifish, Tel. 870740
Archdiocese of God Church, Tel. 63785
St. Joseph Church, Tel. 62490
Church of the Annunciation, Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terranova Church Tel. 62366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Church of the Holy Spirit Tel. 773131

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772611

St. Euphemia Church Tel. 771751

Armenian Evangelical Church Tel. 685326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 632024, 654932

Church of the Nazarene Tel. 673691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Gradual rise in temperatures will take place and winds will be easterly moderate to fresh. In Asquba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman 08/25
Asquba 16/31
Dhahran 07/26
Jordan Valley 14/30

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 23, Asquba 30. Humidity readings: Amman 65 per cent, Asquba 36 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Hanna Mansour 750197

Dr. Saleh Al As'ad 649228

Dr. Shabaneh Emsen 752971

Dr. Jamal Al Jabbari 796460

First pharmacy 661912

Perdons pharmacy 718336

Al Asma pharmacy 637055

Nairookh pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 649445

Shamsi pharmacy 637660

Marjeh pharmacy 623672

Home News

Swedish member urges Arabs to take initiative in peace talks

By Sa'eda Kilani

Special to the Jordan Times

MAN — Major power in the international community may work in favour of the Arab side in the current negotiations, said Hani Hassan, a member of the executive committee of Fatah.

But he urged the Arab side not to sit back and wait for the initiative to come from the other side.

"We must not sit back and wait for the initiative to come from the other side," he said.

One man said, "where to from here?" A peace strategy must be adopted to bring us out of the deadlock we are in.

"I got very tired of our weakness," he said.

He thought the world was changing in our favour but I found out it was not.

Human, 29, said on economic considerations rather than ideological ones.

In Cairo, he said, the current economic situation between Europe and the Arab world is not in favour of the Arab side.

He said the negotiations table and the Arab side's stand, Mr. Al Hassan stressed.

"We have to stand that major powers are pushing our region to the side and if we don't use this, we will never be able to ourselves."

A new policy that must be adopted by Arab countries, he said, is to have a common position with the main aim as a dispute between Arab positions. The first

step to be adopted should be setting up one stance in the peace talks based on the withdrawal principle, Mr. Al Hassan said.

"Land is not subject for discussion nor is it a basis for negotiations," he said. "Even when the Egyptian president went through the negotiation process with Israel, he did not accept what is called the 'phase negotiations'."

Mr. Al Hassan however explained that confrontations must continue while the peace talks are taking place. "To negotiate is to confront, if you want to have more progress and more concrete results, blood has to be shed," he said.

"We have to realise that our main enemy is Israel and not the Arab countries... We have to reject an Israeli-Palestinian confederation and welcome the Jordanian-Palestinian confederation formulae," he said.

"Why do we tend to consider the confederation with Israel which will impose its hegemony and sovereignty and reject it with an Arab country who shares the same destiny?" he asked.



ABU JABER INITIATES NEW DIPLOMATS: A course on diplomacy and international relations organised by the foreign ministry for newly recruited diplomats concluded at the ministry Tuesday. Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber delivered an address at the graduation ceremony in which he stressed the importance of such courses, saying that they are important in teaching the concepts and principles of diplomatic work and in deepening the feelings of true national belonging. The minister then distributed certificates to the 22 graduates who attended the course which consisted of lectures on various domestic, Arab and international issues. The six-month course, organised by the ministry for the first time, also included field visits to government departments and institutions and the general headquarters of the armed forces. The graduation ceremony was attended by senior officials and heads of the ministry's departments. (Petra photo).

Industrial fair opens in Mafrqa

MAFRAQ (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour Monday opened the first Jordanian industrial fair in the city of Mafrqa as part of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday.

Dr. Ensour inspected items on display at the fair by 90 different industrial businesses.

Khaldoun Abu Hassan, president of the Amman Chamber of Industry, addressed the ceremony and said that the fair in Mafrqa was part of the chamber's plan of organising fairs through out Jordan to orient the public on the national industry which contributes towards socio-economic development in Jordan.

The week-long fair which was organised by the Amman chamber in cooperation with the Mafrqa chamber of commerce displays products from businesses dealing with agricultural, chemical, engineering, construction, plastic, leather, textile and wood industries.

The King's birthday on Nov. 14 was marked by other celebrations in different towns during Monday. In Sweleh, scouts and girl guides marched along the streets carrying posters while folk troupes performed debkeh. In Naour, the celebrations also consisted of student marches and parades.

King Hussein's birthday was celebrated in Irbid's schools which held several seminars and cultural gatherings, while Irbid Governor Fayez Abbadi opened a general photo exhibition displaying the development of Jordan under the Hashemites.

King Hussein Monday received a cable of good wishes from Lebanon's President Elias Hrawi wishing him continued health and happiness and further progress and prosperity for the Jordanian people.

Refugee talks in Canada outlined

WASHINGTON (Petra) — Jordan believes that the attainment of a just and durable peace in the Middle East region hinges on finding an acceptable solution to the Palestinian refugees problem, according to Jordan's delegate to the talks on the refugees.

Dr. Jawad Al Anani, who attended the multilateral talks on refugees held recently in Ottawa, Canada, was commenting on the outcome of the meetings which were attended by Arab and Israeli delegates as well as representatives of European and American countries.

The Jordanian delegation demanded that the rights of the refugees and displaced persons be established in accordance with U.N. resolutions issued since 1948 and that the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) have a major role in contributing towards a settlement of the refugee problem, said Dr.



Dr. Jawad Al Anani

Anani. He explained that the delegates worked out a programme for the creation of a data-base on refugees to be financed by Norway, Canada and the European Community in cooperation with UNRWA. The meeting also discussed the question of training

Palestinian refugees and creating job opportunities. Dr. Anani added that the United States has expressed readiness to help implement this programme in cooperation with the EC countries.

Jordan demanded that Palestinian families separated by wars since 1948 should be reunited and that deportees should be able to return to their homeland in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Dr. Anani said that along with Jordan, Arab countries represented at the Ottawa meeting included, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. He said that his delegation had maintained close cooperation with all these delegations particularly along with the Palestinian delegation.

Dr. Anani said that the working group on refugees decided to hold its next meeting in Norway sometime in the spring of 1993.

Islamists plan to dominate Bar Association

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — At least nine prominent lawyers including two former ministers of justice have nominated themselves as candidates for the presidency of the Bar Association in Jordan despite the fact that the elections are not due until March 1993.

The Bar Association in Jordan, which was established in 1950, has always been dominated by leftist and nationalist factions, but this time the Islamists are going to be active and try to win as many votes as possible, said a

bar member who preferred anonymity. He said that there are an estimated 250 Islamists from an association members of 2,500.

Former minister of justice Riad Al Shakkha has already been nominated for the position of association president. Another former minister running as independent for the presidency is Mr. Rateb Al Wazni. Other candidates are: Marwan Al Hussein, Dr. Kamal Nasser, Ismail Mahadin, Khalaf Masaadeh, Jawad Yunis, Omar Damra and Fahmi Abu Hweij.

Nearly 800 members of the association in the occupied West Bank who are legally still linked

to the Bar Association in Jordan are also taking part in the elections. Some sources say that the West Bank lawyers will be electing a member of the council during the current month.

Nearly 1,200 young men and women lawyers who are taking part in the coming elections are demanding that the association give priority to professionalism rather than politics. Many accuse the present council of being arbitrary in dealing with the new lawyers, particularly with regard to the new stern conditions imposed on new lawyers practicing the profession in Jordan.

Report cites continued Israeli repression

AMMAN (Petra) — As the Arab-Israeli peace talks continue in Washington and other capitals through bilateral and multilateral sessions, the Israeli authorities' repressive measures against the Palestinian population continue unabated.

A report by the Palestinian Affairs Department at the Foreign Ministry in Amman issued Tuesday said that a total of 20 Palestinian Arabs aged four to 60 were killed in October while four Arab homes were demolished.

Despite the peace talks, the Israeli authorities have confiscated Arab lands, said the report. So far, the Israelis have seized 3,077,364 dunums of land from the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip since the 1967 occupation and 186 Jewish settlements have been set up with 20 in the Gaza Strip, the report noted.

Israeli military courts in the last month have passed sentences on 155 Arab citizens and imposed house arrest on many others, said the report. In a desperate move to terminate the intifada the Israeli military authorities have started using a new type of rubber bullets that burn the skin in addition to the old rubber and live bullets, continued the report.

At the same time, the report said, the past month witnessed continued assaults by Israeli settlers on Arab citizens and their property like cars and furniture causing numerous injuries and a severe material damage.

The report also cites incidents in which Arab homes were stormed by Jewish settlers and troops and maltreatment of Arab detainees in Israeli jails. It said that according to Israeli military law, Arabs can be detained for 14 days for no reason and kept incommunicado undergoing torture, interrogation and solitary confinement.

The recent hunger strikes staged by inmates in the past two months, said the report, present a clear evidence of the deteriorating prison conditions and the inhuman treatment accorded to Arab detainees.

During the past month, added the report, a series of curfews were imposed by the Israeli military authorities on Palestinian towns and refugee camps in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Rafah town was put under a seven-day curfew in October during which the local inhabitants suffered from severe shortages of basic foodstuffs like flour and children's milk, noted the report.

The report pointed out also that Israeli military measures covered areas of Palestinian lands occupied since 1948. It said that the authorities imposed a seven-day curfew on the town of Galilee and detained 500 local citizens for their resistance activities.

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HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King sends cable to Oman and Latvia

MAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable of good wishes to Sultan Qaboos Ben Sa'id of Oman on his 35th birthday. The King wished the Sultan continued peace and further progress and prosperity for the Omani people. King Hussein also Tuesday sent a cable of good wishes to the president of Latvia on his country's independence day anniversary.

Prince meets Turkish general

MAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday at the Royal Court Tuesday visiting Turkish Deputy Prime Minister of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Fikrat Kopalti and accompanying delegation. Prince Hassan reviewed at the heart of Mr. King the latest developments in the Middle East and the world for peace. The meeting was attended by the chief of staff of the land forces, the inspector general, the Turkish ambassador to Jordan, the Turkish military attaché in Amman.

Cabinet holds meeting

MAN (Petra) — The Cabinet held a meeting Tuesday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and approved recommendations by the financial and economic committee on considering 10 productive projects in various fields and economic projects. The Cabinet also approved considering 10 productive projects as economic projects. It also approved appointment of Abdul Aziz Al Thiyabat as Al Ramtha mayor and Al Sawar as Naour mayor.

WHAT'S GOING ON

following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Ismail Fattah, Lisa Jabbah and Mohammad Moharradin at the Abdul Hameed Bouman Foundation Gallery — (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.)

Exhibition entitled "Brilliant stories — American narrative welly exhibit" at the American Centre (open from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.)

Exhibition entitled "Melody Ambiance" by Adnan Al Sharif at a Phoenix Art Gallery.

Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Salmaan Al Basri at Alfa Gallery.

Exhibition entitled "Characteristics of the Mediterranean Sea" at the French Cultural Centre.

Exhibition of contemporary Swedish art art at the Royal Cultural Centre.

LECTURE

Lecture, in Arabic, on "Jordanian Women and Problems facing them" by Josey Salem at the Phoenix Art Gallery — 7 p.m.

MAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable of good wishes to Sultan Qaboos Ben Sa'id of Oman on his 35th birthday. The King wished the Sultan continued peace and further progress and prosperity for the Omani people. King Hussein also Tuesday sent a cable of good wishes to the president of Latvia on his country's independence day anniversary.

Jordan Times

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Economic Forum

When financial sovereignty crumbles

I WAS very much impressed by a 26-page survey on world economy published by the "Economist" in its Sept. 19-25 1992 edition. The survey is both comprehensive and illuminating and touches on the world economy's hot financial issues.

The 1980s were marked by a host of important issues, swings and events, such as international debt crisis, Reaganomics, Thatcherism and monetarism. However, the survey suggests that the eighties will be remembered mainly as the years during which "many of the boundaries between national financial markets dissolved and a truly global capital market began to emerge." It goes on to conclude that the next decade will be remembered for the world's struggle to cope with this development.

What is the message of this to developing countries, especially those committed, voluntarily or compulsorily, to liberalise their economies and to deregulate their financial structures as they become part of a world financial market where free and sometimes cut-throat competition reigns?

Financial deregulation entails dismantling of controls and barriers on the movement of capital across national economic borders. For a developing country, this means that the domestic market becomes a part of the Euro money market, world financial market. The immediate result of such a development is for the national monetary and fiscal policies to lose a significant and

growing part of their "sovereignty." The above survey dwells at length on this aspect and vividly portrays how life has become difficult for both policies under financial deregulation: "Governments find it even harder than before to use the traditional economic levers—monetary and economic policy—to pilot their economies." For example, when domestic interest rates are raised to tighten the credit policy and to stem the growth of money supply, this can lead to an inflow of foreign capital and thus the initial goal of this measure is self-defeated. The interest rate weapon is blunted under global finance.

Obviously, the game of a "global financial market" can be fairly played only by strong players, namely advanced countries. Capital inflows and outflows lead to the appreciation or depreciation of their already floating currencies. Currency appreciation is followed by a correction through the well-known mechanism: higher exchange rates increase the prices of the exports of goods and services, cut current accounts surpluses and thereafter weaken the national currency, and vice versa. Advanced countries can tolerate this game simply because their currencies are convertible: that is they are freely accepted to settle their international payments. In other words, they do not face shortages in foreign exchange reserves. They pay in their national currency, until their economies pick up and their international standing consequently improves.

Developing countries are in completely different straits. They have to conserve always their foreign exchange holdings. If such progress is defined. Hasty deregulation will only cause developing country in currency tremors of various magnitudes. However, this is not to fault the option of economic liberalisation. But foreign exchange controls cannot also be wiped away. Leaving developing countries defenceless in the face of capital. Interestingly enough, Jordan happened to devise a middle which it followed during most of the seventies and eighties: maintained controls on capital movements but did not let them as there was no need for that. But when the current hit in 1988-89, the economic policy had only to dust off unbeloved weapons and go into action.

The plausible message here is that financial deregulation in a developing country should match its economic progress. If such progress is defined. Hasty deregulation will only cause developing country in currency tremors of various magnitudes. However, this is not to fault the option of economic liberalisation. But foreign exchange controls cannot also be wiped away. Leaving developing countries defenceless in the face of capital. Interestingly enough, Jordan happened to devise a middle which it followed during most of the seventies and eighties: maintained controls on capital movements but did not let them as there was no need for that. But when the current hit in 1988-89, the economic policy had only to dust off unbeloved weapons and go into action.

Follow the Qatari lead

THE FACADE of unity among the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states seems to be falling apart under the strain of border disputes between Qatar and Saudi Arabia and between Oman and the United Arab Emirates. When Qatar boycotted the recent six-member council defence ministers' meeting in Kuwait, that aimed at beefing up the existing 10,000-strong Peninsula Shield Force, the message was clear: All is not well among the GCC member states.

The tension among the oil rich Gulf countries escalated when Qatar sent its ambassador back to Baghdad on Oct. 27. The implications of the Qatari move are obviously profound since the whole attempt by the GCC to forge an effective, unified force was directed not only against Iran but also against Iraq. Iraq continues to be viewed by the GCC leadership as a constant threat to the Gulf states despite the fact that Iraq had in the 1980s served as the shield protecting the Gulf region against Iran's ambitions. Having withstood the hardships of the past two years, Iraq is still being regarded as a threat looming on the horizon, ready to strike again at its hostile neighbours.

This GCC perspective is due for a reevaluation. Notwithstanding the current conflict, the Iraqi people will remain forever an integral part of the Arab Nation. Nothing could change the fundamentals in the Arab equation and the sooner there is reconciliation between the GCC member states and Iraq the better it is for both sides. It would be utter folly to persist in regarding Iraq and its people as dangerous and hostile to the welfare and security of the Arab Gulf states and their peoples. Doha's decision to reestablish diplomatic ties with Baghdad must be interpreted not so much as a hostile act against Riyadh but rather as a gesture of goodwill aimed at unfreezing relationships between the Gulf Arab governments and Iraq. One would hope that other Gulf capitals would follow in the footsteps of Qatar through extending bridges with the Iraqi people in preparation for the future.

Greater efforts must also be made to reintegrate Iraq as a country and people into the Arab fold. Iraq has paid dearly for the occupation of Kuwait and this is a time for healing the wounds. The calls for relaxing the sanctions against Iraq are getting louder and louder across the world and soon enough there will be an effective reappraisal of the U.S. posture on Iraq. Once the Americans relax their policies towards Iraq, others will follow suit. Arabs' ostracising Iraq for much longer will prove counterproductive to Arab interests. The Iraqi people shall be given the opportunity to determine their future. And besieging the Iraqi people is not exactly the best way to achieve such a goal. Qatar has taken the first step in that direction. The other Gulf capitals need to think along these lines instead of persisting in treating Iraq as an archenemy.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE TALKS in Washington about the prospect of sending back James Baker to the Middle East to serve as a U.S. envoy to stimulate the Middle East peace process is tackled by Al Ra'i daily Tuesday. The paper said that no one can deny the fundamental role which Mr. Baker played in initiating the process, but his coming back requires new momentum if the peace process is to achieve any progress. The paper said that at this phase is a real change in the Israeli position to prepare the ground for a settlement which can only be achieved through the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, the basis of the current peace process, said the paper. The talk in Washington about the return of James Baker to the Middle East, under the Clinton administration clearly reflects the fact that the new administration is keen on maintaining the peace process to achieve a settlement, the paper continued. But, it said, for such a settlement to be achieved, a new momentum is required and a full commitment to the international legitimacy is required. The peace process, which has so far achieved nothing concrete, must be given a driving force, and this can only materialise through a serious effort on the part of the new U.S. administration which ought to pressure Israel into complying with the will of the world community and to respect its resolutions, the paper said. The paper said that unless such a development occurs, no one can be optimistic about Mr. Baker's return and his renewed role in the region.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour daily said Tuesday that the Arabs in general and the Palestinians in particular are bound to pay the price of the neo-Nazi movement in Eastern Europe. Taher Udwan said that the world Zionism is behind the current drive to bring back to life Nazism in a bid to force the remaining Jews of Europe to go to Israel and evict the Palestinians and the other Arabs from their homeland. The writer said that it is no secret that the Europeans had helped the creation of Israel earlier this century because they had wanted to get rid of their presence on their lands. The anti-Semitic movement in Italy, Germany, Hungary and other parts of Europe, the writer said, is a clear sign that the world Zionism is playing the same game again. For its part, the United States, the main ally of Israel, is financing this process and the U.S. administration is exercising more pressure on the Arabs rather than on Israel to reach a settlement so that more and more Jews come to settle in the region, encouraged by the projected peace. The writer said that neither the Europeans nor the Americans want the Arabs to regain their homeland, but they are only interested in safeguarding their own interests by forcing some kind of settlement on the Arab Nation.



Behind the scenes, a daring game of Mideast peace

By Leslie H. Gelb

NEW YORK — Obscured by the United States presidential campaign, the Syrian fox, President Hafez Assad, and the Israeli ox, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, have been playing a daring game of peace. Sometimes publicly, sometimes secretly, but always ambiguously and cleverly in their different ways.

Games are not bankable. But there is enough stardust here to justify a major diplomatic effort by experienced players in the Bush administration who could carry on in the Clinton administration.

The Assad-Rabin peace formula is old: land for peace. What is new is that each leader has positioned himself to make a deal. The diplomatic trick for the mediator is to manoeuvre both into saying the magic words simultaneously and with substance.

In secret, Mr. Rabin has hinted in the most intricate and deniable diplomatic language that he is prepared to withdraw totally from the Golan Heights in return for peace. But he will not be more specific about withdrawal until Mr. Assad demonstrates a commitment to peace by word and deed.

In public and in Arabic for all Arabs to hear, Mr. Assad has responded that he will give "total peace" for "total withdrawal." But he will not be specific about peace until Mr. Rabin commits to full withdrawal. Meanwhile, he has put out the word through his diplomats that war with Israel is no longer an acceptable choice for the Syrian people.

Both leaders are master strategists. Both have devised peace strategies. Now both have to figure out how to make peace politically palatable to each other and to their citizens, long consumed by mutual fear and hatred.

Mr. Rabin has decided that Israel must strive all out for a secure peace with Syria, Jordan and the Palestinians. Only peace will allow Israel to focus on its economic troubles and absorb millions of immigrants. Only peace with immediate neighbours will permit Israel to focus on its greatest long-term threat — Iran.

The Israeli prime minister knows that he cannot make a deal with Syria unless Mr. Assad gets back all of the Golan Heights — just as President Sadat of Egypt got back all of Sinai in 1979. So Mr. Rabin has passed the message to Damascus that Israel will

"fully" carry out U.N. resolutions regarding withdrawal from occupied territories. His formula omits the word "all," contrary to Arab demands. But it adds the word "fully," implying all the Golan. To square these concerns, Israel could grant Syria full sovereignty over the heights, then lease back the territory for an extended period with security guarantees.

The dogged Israeli leader will not budge an inch further until the Syrian leader offers "consistent and concrete expressions of peace" — such as a face-to-face meeting. But Mr. Rabin does not insist that Mr. Assad come to Jerusalem as did Anwar Sadat.

Mr. Assad's strategy remains essentially confrontational. He continues a major arms buildup. He still directs and backs terrorists. He still uses Islamic fundamentalists to intimidate Palestinians seeking an autonomy agreement with Israel.

But even hard-headed Israeli intelligence analysts see silver linings. The wily Syrian has agreed to negotiate a joint declaration of principles with Israel. He says openly that Arab objectives can no longer be attained by force. And he has told his countrymen

to be prepared for a "peace of the brave."

In sum, Mr. Assad seems to be toying with the idea of peace — as long as he thinks he might gain through peace what he cannot achieve by war: American and Israeli acquiescence in a Greater Syria including all of the Golan, hegemony in Lebanon and primacy over Jordanians and Palestinians.

Israel and the United States cannot go nearly that far. But they can accommodate some Syrian ambitions and find advantages for themselves. With some rewards, Syria could be induced to restrain anti-American, anti-Zionist, anti-peace fundamentalists and become a counterweight to Iraq and Iran.

Skillful, experienced negotiators like James Baker and his team could do a lot with these Syrian-Israeli openings. President-elect Bill Clinton could keep them on this case to reassure Middle Easterners and prove his commitment to a bipartisan foreign policy at home. Mr. Baker and company would be performing a vital service for Arabs, Israelis, Republicans, Mr. Clinton and America — The New York Times.

Mideast peace talks struggle in U.S. vacuum

By Alan Elsner
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Buffeted by rising violence in the Middle East and a political vacuum in the United States, Arab-Israeli peace talks have fallen on hard times. Although delegates from Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Palestinians faithfully show up at the State Department every day for negotiations, they are making virtually no progress in solving their 44-year-old conflict.

Nor are they expected to do so, at least until next spring when the Clinton administration has taken power and a new team of officials to guide the process is in place.

One Israeli delegate gave a flavour of the talks last week. He said that before the first session of talks with the Palestinian delegation had even begun, a new release — written in Arabic by the Palestinians describing the failure of the day's talks and condemning Israeli intransigence — fell into Israeli hands.

"We told them, 'If you have already decided the outcome before the meeting has taken place, then maybe we shouldn't bother,'" the delegate said.

Analysts, some of whom had argued before the seventh round of talks began last Monday that the parties would make an effort to consolidate gains before the Bush administration left power, were forced to rethink by the end of a fruitless week.

"What it seems to mean is there will be no swift agreement while Bush is in power and the parties might well try to test Clinton when he arrives by seeking to renegotiate all their old understandings with the United States," said one diplomat.

The seventh round of talks is due to end on Thursday and the Israelis are pressing for an eighth round in December to keep some kind of momentum in the process.

But chief Syrian delegate Mouwafak Al Alai said he did not expect any progress in the remaining four days of talks and it would be up to the United States to determine whether it was worth having another round in December.

"We do not expect a lot of change in the Israeli position.

Unfortunately, it says Israel have not decided the talks to be ward," he said.

Israel's chief negotiator, Itzhak Mordechai Rabinovitch, said he had acknowledged there were problems. He said the day's talks stemmed from "speculations and" that the Syrians are doing the U.S. political reference to the in power to Clinton.

"I don't think the unravelling. But the talks in the process."

If it were only waiting for Mr. Clinton, the situation perhaps be a matter of time, but not of danger. In the Middle East, the situation remains tense and the would-be peace mounting.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin seemed by the time he surmounted the fence from Iran's b bollah guerrillas in S non by mounting a S of strength along the der.

The guerrillas fired Katyusha rockets into Israel last week, proved to send extra tanks into the area. But witnesses said Israeli forces were still out again.

In a fresh effort, peace talks back on a tian President Hosni met Israeli Foreign Minister Peres on Sunday. Egypt, the only A have signed a peace Israel, invited Peres after Mr. Mubarak officials held three day sious with PLO last Arafat.

Partly as a result of mediation, the almost Israel-Palestinian talk proved and the side discussions in small groups, which the had suspended earl week.

But the improvement there still did not net progress was being in

Armed militant groups make gains across Horn of Africa

By Jennifer Parmelee

SHIIXH, Somalia — Groups of well-armed Islamic fundamentalists, funded generously from abroad, are expanding across Somali-populated areas of the Horn of Africa in an apparent bid to establish a stronghold for militant Islam in the region, according to Somali and foreign observers.

The strongest and most visible group, the Islamic Union Party — known as Itihad, or union — is styled after the international Muslim Brotherhood and has made significant inroads from northern Somalia on the Gulf of Aden to the predominantly Somali-speaking Ogaden region of Ethiopia and into Somali-populated areas of northern Kenya, sources said.

Itihad has set up military training camps across northern Somalia and the Ogaden and runs a network supplying arms and money to ethnic Somali populations in Djibouti, Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya, according to interviews with dozens of local leaders, diplomats and aid work-

ers in Somalia and Ethiopia. One of the movement's stated goals is to unite the various Somali populations under the banner of Islam.

The moves of Itihad coincide with fragmentary evidence gathered by regional governments and Western intelligence agencies that Islamic fundamentalist groups in Saudi Arabia, Iran, Sudan and possibly Pakistan are encouraging militant Islam among Muslims in other parts of Ethiopia and its soon-to-be independent territory of Eritrea on the Red Sea.

The fundamentalists' efforts in the region have been made easier by the chaos that followed the fall of the Somali government of Mohammed Siad Barre in 1990. Widespread anarchy has spawned clan warfare in the south of the country and the proclamation of a Republic of Somaliland in the north, independent from the virtually powerless government that succeeded Mr. Siad Barre in the capital, Mogadishu.

"Fundamentalist Islam has failed in many countries, but then there was a government to stop them," said Youssef Omar Azhari, a representative of the Somali Salvation Democratic Front based in northeastern Somalia. "In Somalia, they are operating freely, in a vacuum."

"They must not be underestimated," Mr. Azhari said, "because if they are allowed to grow beyond their infancy they will be a real threat to the whole Horn of Africa."

In February, a UNICEF doctor was assassinated in Boosaaso, on the Gulf of Aden, where Mr. Azhari's group makes its headquarters. Western diplomats and the Democratic Front blamed Itihad for the attack, which was widely interpreted as a warning against the establishment of a western presence in Somalia. It had been preceded by anti-U.N. statements during Friday prayers at local mosques.

In June, more than 1,000 armed followers of Itihad swept into Boosaaso, rounded up about

40 members of the Democratic Front's leadership and declared an Islamic republic. Democratic Front militias were mobilised, and as many as 200 militiamen and 500 Itihad fighters were killed and hundreds wounded in the battle that ensued.

Itihad forces in Laasqoray have swelled to around 2,000 men and seem to be gearing up for another attack on Boosaaso, the northeast's key port, according to the Democratic Front, western diplomats and other sources from the area. Itihad camps offering military and religious training to thousands of young men also have been set up outside the northern towns of Burao, Boorama and Laasqoray, according to officials and relief workers.

In the Ethiopian region of the Ogaden, meanwhile, Itihad reportedly has stepped up military activities, frequently cutting off roads to such key towns as Gode, attacking relief food convoys and engaging government troops.

Repeated attempts to contact Itihad representatives in the region were unsuccessful. But according to Somali elders who know them, Itihad leaders have said the group has armed itself in self-defence in a chaotic country full of armed groups.

The source of Itihad's funding cannot be independently determined. While some sources say wealthy, conservative Somalis living abroad support the group, many Somalis, as well as Western intelligence sources, said they suspected considerable financial and military backing was coming from hardline Islamic groups in Saudi Arabia, Iran, Pakistan, Sudan and other countries. Western diplomats said arms shipments for Somalia have been spotted leaving the Saudi port of Jazan on the Red Sea.

Itihad's military activities, in the absence of any effective government structure to combat them, have sent a chill through the Somali community. But fundamentalism is a sensitive subject, since Somalis generally con-

sider themselves good, ate, Muslims and apt to criticise anyone Islam.

A common Muslim unified the different a the Somali National M northern alliance that the civil war that top Siad Barre. The north lins considered the of jihad against Mr. Siad secular, authoritarian Somalis' historical o and cultural ties with countries of the Gulf r are rooted in a shared voice concern over spired violence, expt pathy for the group's aims. Abdul Rahman Ali, president of the lamed Somaliland repi pressed the view that Arab nationalism and culture all have failed to his region's needs, thering the door to a rean Islamic values — Wa Post.

Players urge change in ATP rankings

FRANKFURT (AP) — Jim Courier's No. 1 ranking is on the line and he wants the system changed. So does Stefan Edberg, the No. 2. Both have a job for John McEnroe.

The two top-ranked tennis players in the world say the ranking system leaves a lot to be desired. And they feel McEnroe would be the perfect man to negotiate on their behalf for a change.

Courier and Edberg spoke Monday, on the eve of the Association of Tennis Professionals tour world championship.

The year-end championship could leave the game with a new No. 1 in the world. Pete Sampras, the No. 3, also could have a shot at the top spot.

"I am not worried about losing the No. 1, I have nothing to lose or gain, I just have to go out and play well," Courier said.

"The points system is flawed and the best of 14 tournaments doesn't work," he said.

The players are ranked according to the ATP computer which awards points for every tournament. Only the top 14 tournaments count for a player's ranking at the end of the year.

"Every tournament should count. You should play your best at every tournament if you are a professional. And Grand Slams should count much more."

Courier said. "Now you can have guys losing in the first round of every Grand Slam and still be ranked very high," he said. "I don't want to be playing the computer. At the end of my career I don't want to know how many points I've won."

"I spoke to Stefan about it after practice and he feels the same way," Courier said.

He said drafting McEnroe to argue their case was Edberg's idea.

"John would be perfect. He wouldn't take any crap from anyone. And I think John would love it."

McEnroe, a former No. 1, is scaling down his schedule as he nears the end of his career.

"We are going to be talking about the system here. If the top eight players can't change the system, then no one can," Courier said.

The \$2.5 million ATP world championship is the top eight players in the world.

Sampras, the No. 3, agreed that Grand Slam tournaments should carry more weight but said there was no ranking system that would make everyone happy.

"You are not going to have a perfect system but I'd sit down and talk about it," said the American, who is the defending champion here.

Navratilova slices through Slims opener

NEW YORK (AP) — Martina Navratilova opened the Virginia Slims Championships with yet another victory, one so convincing that the only question was how many season-ending titles she has won.

Navratilova, the fourth seed, sped past Switzerland's Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere 6-2, 6-2 Monday night to begin the singles portion of the week-long, season-ending tournament, an event she hasn't won since 1986.

Top-seeded Monica Seles then took just 50 minutes to join Navratilova in the quarterfinals, stopping Nathalie Tauziat of France 6-1, 6-2.

Tournament records show Navratilova has won this elite event four times, through November 1986. But that's just for starters.

In 1983, the Virginia Slims Championships was an invitational event and not a season-ending tournament. Navratilova won that.

She also won in 1979 and 1981, when it was the Avon Championships and marked the end of the Avon-sponsored indoor season. Then there was 1978 Virginia Slims Championships. Whatever that was — and no one Monday night could remember

right away — Navratilova captured the title.

Navratilova also has been the losing finalist here five times, including each of the last two years.

Against Maleeva-Fragniere, it was Navratilova at the peak of her game. After cruising through the opening two games, testing the court, seeing how fast the balls were, evaluating her opponent's and her own games, Navratilova let loose.

"I'm playing as well as I can. I think at times I play as well as ever I have in my career," Navratilova said. "It's hard to always be consistent. It becomes more difficult to always be at your best. But I'm playing really good tennis."

Seles also was awesome. She ripped through the first set in 17 minutes before Tauziat found a way to slow down the juggernaut — not stop her, just slow her down.

After the two held serve to begin the match, Seles won the next nine games, closing out the first set and taking a 4-0 lead in the second.

"I think I lost a little of my concentration," Seles said. "My mind wandered off at 4-0."

Not far enough to help Tauziat.

who managed to hold her next two service games. But by then it was much too late. For the third straight year, Tauziat was eliminated in the opening round.

In her match, Navratilova attacked everything, occasionally being passed, but always dictating the action. At 35, she had too many weapons and too much experience for Maleeva-Fragniere's baseline game.

"She played very, very well," Maleeva-Fragniere said of her conqueror.

"My legs were heavy and I think she felt it and she put even more pressure on me."

In the fifth game of the opening set, Navratilova was caught at the net with a beautiful lob. She raced back and kept the ball in play, only to have Maleeva-Fragniere smash the ball into the corner.

Guessing correctly, Navratilova was there, but she could only throw up a defensive lob. Again the right-handed hit a smash into the corner. Again, the tournament's oldest player guessed right. And again a defensive lob went up.

On the next ball to come back over the net, Navratilova was ready, her feet squarely under

her, and she rifled a backhand cross-court that zipped past Maleeva-Fragniere for a winner.

Navratilova pumped her arms in triumph.

The body language of both players told the story after that. Navratilova was confident, Maleeva-Fragniere waiting for the night to end.

Only in the sixth game of the second set did Navratilova have trouble, and she caused that herself with sloppy service game. She lost her serve, but broke right back to go up 5-2, then held at 15 to close out the victory.

No. 2 Steffi Graf will play Lori McNeil, No. 6 Mary Joe Fernandez takes on Jana Novotna and No. 8 Conchita Martinez battles Katerina Maleeva. The opening round of singles wraps up Wednesday with No. 5 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario playing Zina Garrison, No. 7 Jennifer Capriati meeting Helena Sukova and No. 3 Gabriela Sabatini taking on Amy Frazier.

The tournament wraps up Sunday with a unique best-of-5-sets final, the only time during the year the women play more than best-of-3. Sunday's winner will collect \$250,000, with \$120,000 going to the runnerup.

England go in search of goals against Turkey

LONDON (R) — England, spearheaded by two strikers with just one international goal between them, have been ordered to shoot on sight as they seek an essential World Cup victory over Turkey Wednesday.

England manager Graham Taylor is sticking with his novice attacking partnership of Ian Wright and Alan Shearer as England seek their first victory in six games, but has issued a "fire-at-will" order to his goal-chey team against traditionally weak opponents Turkey.

Taylor's plea for more goals follows a dismal recent strike rate of just five goals in their last seven games — all of them from Juventus midfielder David Platt.

"If one thing has been disappointing about my managerial career with England it's the amount of goals," said Taylor. "We've got to get our shot total higher," he said. "I really don't mind, as long as it's not a silly shot, if people have a go. You have to be prepared to miss."

Wright and Shearer, the strikeforce Taylor devised to replace the goal scoring talents of the retired Gary Lineker, are being given another chance after drawing a blank in the 1-1 draw against group two leaders Norway in last month's opening qualifier.

Shearer, the Premier League's leading scorer with 16 for Blackburn, has hit the target just once in five internationals and Wright, Arsenal's prolific marksman with 36 goals in 48 games has failed to score in his six England appearances.

But goals have dried up for the 3.2 million pounds (\$4.87 million) Shearer and since his frustrating time against Norway he has failed

to score in four league games. Despite some previous high-scoring victories against Turkey no-one in the England camp believes goals, or victory, will be easy to come by.

Turkey, who failed to win a point and scored just once in qualifying games for this year's European Championship, are without leading striker Rivan Dimen who is injured.

Taylor is expected to make one change to the side which played Norway, bringing Carlton Palmer into midfield for the injured David Batty.

Signori replaces Vialli in Italian team

Youth is likely to triumph over experience Wednesday when 24-year-old Lazio striker Giuseppe Signori replaces Gianluca Vialli for Italy's World Cup qualifier against Scotland in Glasgow.

Twice-capped Signori, who has been in excellent form this season scoring 10 league goals, is set to partner Roberto Baggio in attack, leaving the more erratic Vialli, capped 56 times for Italy, out in the cold.

Although Italian coach Arrigo Sacchi will not name his side until Wednesday, he tipped Signori for a place Monday.

"There's no point in trying to match the Scots with strength and force. If you do that, you lose," he said.

Scotland's Gordon Durie is particularly keen to do well against Italy. He last played against them nearly four years ago and in his 20 minutes on the pitch barely touched the ball so keen was Baresi's grip on defence.



David Platt

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Bowe still waiting for his check

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Riddick Bowe has the belts, but not the check. The new heavyweight champion has yet to be paid for his efforts Friday night against Evander Holyfield because of a dispute over sanctioning fees. The Nevada State Athletic Commission continued Monday to hold up Bowe's \$2.9 million check because he hasn't paid the sanctioning fees of the three world boxing organizations. Sandy Johnson, secretary to the commission, said Bowe owes some \$250,000 to the World Boxing Council, World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation for sanctioning his fight with Holyfield as a championship fight.

Trail Blazers overcome Knicks 109-94

PORTLAND (AP) — Cliff Robinson, Mario Elie and Mark Bryant provided the spark off the bench in Portland, Oregon, as the Trail Blazers beat New York 109-94 to become the only unbeaten team left in the young NBA season. Patrick Ewing scored 28 points and John Starks 21 for the Knicks, who pulled within the one in the third quarter, but couldn't catch the Blazers. Terry Porter scored 17 points for the Blazers and was 10-for-10 from the foul line for the second time in three games. Elie scored 14 points. Clyde Drexler had 13 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists, but also committed seven turnovers and was just 5-for-15 from the field.

Basketball behind, Magic devotes himself to life

NEW YORK (AP) — Two thousands or so signatures into Magic Johnson's book signing appearance on Monday, the ex-NBA star was still smiling, still posing for pictures, still asking little kids their names and giving them high-fives.

When at last, after 90 minutes of signing, he stood up, the crowd started chanting. "Magic, Magic" it was reminiscent of the greeting Muhammad Ali used to inspire.

"All the receptions have been warm," Johnson said, "here in New York and in L.A., it's been the wildest, the craziest. It's fun. You never know what the reception will be. You know they're great basketball fans, but this went beyond basketball."

Fun remains what Magic is all about. Even after his second retirement from basketball, even with small pockets of resentment that he keeps hidden most of the

time, Magic still smiles a lot. "I enjoy life and what I do," he said. "I work out every day. I'm in good health and good shape. I was at the fight last week. I'll be in L.A. to see the Clippers and the Knicks. I'll see the Bulls and the Lakers. I will always be visible. I love living and that's living."

Still there are moments when Johnson reflects on the twists and turns his life has taken since last November when he announced that he was retiring from basketball after testing positive for the virus that causes AIDS.

He said he had decided on a second retirement before hearing the concerns of players like Olympic teammate Karl Malone over the danger of contracting the AIDS virus from contact with him.

"I always said I play for you and when the fun is gone, I'm gone," he said.

ly to commit the partnership to a hopeless game.

Since there was no point to a

holdup, declarer won the first trick in dummy with the ace and led the three of trumps, which fetched the six, queen and four. Declarer exited with a low trump and was fortunate to find East had started with a doubleton ace. When declarer regained the lead, the last trump was drawn, and declarer lost just one trick in each suit to make the contract.

It all seems harmless enough. However, a crucial error was made. Did you spot the culprit?

West made life easy for declarer by following to the first trump trick with the four. With the A J 10 of trumps still missing, the only way declarer could limit losers in the trump suit to one was to hope that East had been dealt a doubleton ace. Suppose that, instead, West were to drop the ten of trumps. Suddenly declarer has an alternative—South can continue with the king, playing West to have started with a 10 here. This falsecard comes with no guarantees, but it does offer a reasonable chance. Who can ask for anything more?

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNIA HIRSCH
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HONOR THY ENEMY

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A 10 7
♥ A K 8 3
♦ Q 8 6 5 4
♣ 8

WEST
♠ K Q J 8
♥ 9 8 7 5
♦ K J 9
♣ J 10 4

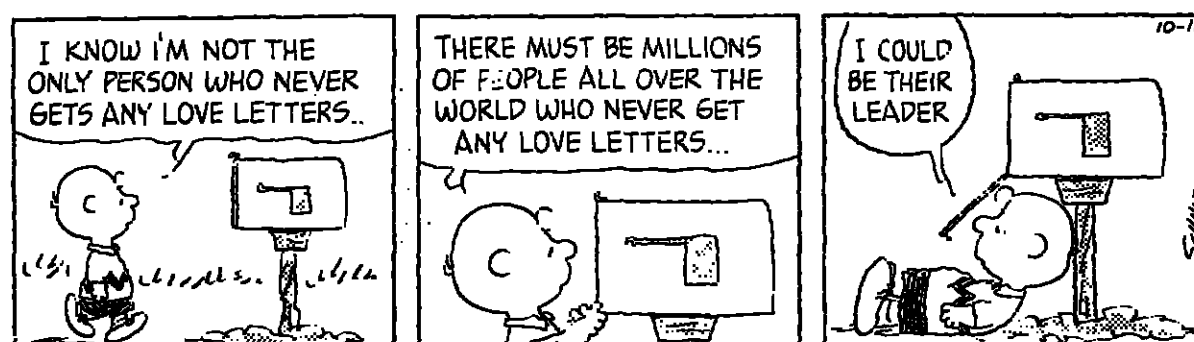
SOUTH
♠ 5 3
♥ J 8 4
♦ 3
♣ K Q 9 8 7 6 2

The bidding:
South West North East
3 ♠ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: King of ♠

Falsecarding works both ways. Just as declarer can paint a false picture of the hand for the defenders, so clever defenders can entice declarer away from a winning line by offering a reasonable alternative.

South's preempt was perhaps a smokescreen light by normal standards, but the vulnerability was at its most favorable. East-West had some play for three spades, but neither was able to enter the auction and, if either did, the other was like-

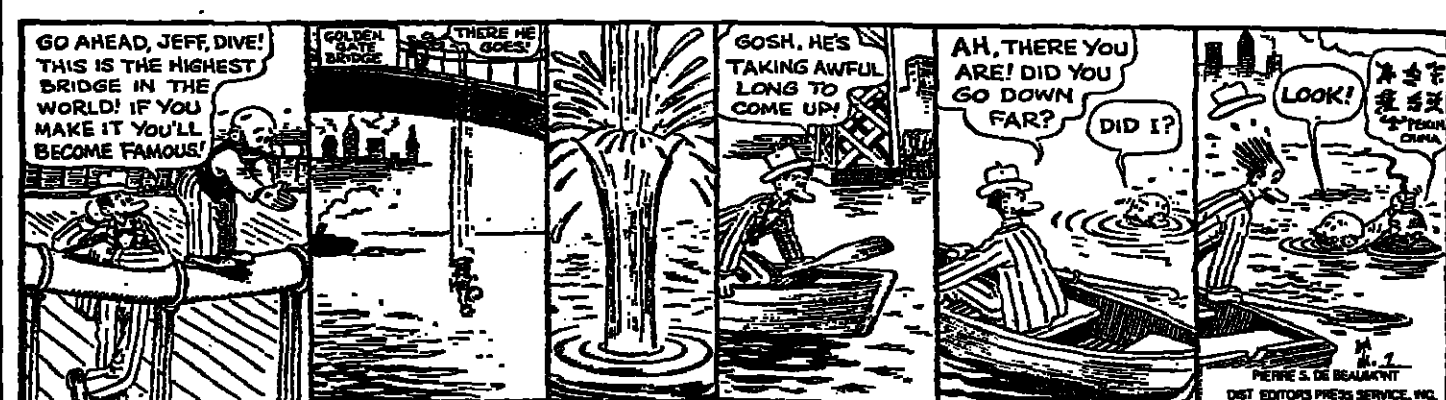
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 18, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Looking into future ways to move ahead could result in drastic changes and breaking up present activities into a new, better defined order as the Moon trines Uranus and Neptune and Sun trines Mars.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Go after what you want during the daytime from a new and more pioneering aspect then later you find the evening brings chances to get money matters solved.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can wind up some private arrangement by which you can come out on top during the day while tonight go after what you want that is practical and lasting.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A new person with a progressive temperament will be helpful to you don't be reticent but seek aid and tonight is best to listen well to mates remarks.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A plan in public will go forward now that has been held up for sometime to pursue vigorously, then go into the personal aspects of it.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Look into new activities that have not been a part of your daily life before this and later you see just how you can use them in vocational interests.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You can achieve a great deal

today rearranging your accounts, then you are off to new interests that you.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A worldly matter on light that can bring you some able benefits so accept them, then you can get into requirements.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) The morning is once going forward with new activities, then later you get into some new ones that to light.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A fine day ahead with recreation plan has been temporarily at then you can get into a very practical work matter.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have a chance to do something that will bring new to your residence, then be recreations that are not.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You can be very busy during the daytime at some times that face you but what will improve the quality harmony at home.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You see new ways to your present abundance it quickly while tonight you can advance means to make material progress.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harri



JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KOBOR

YEJON

OTTYNK

DILVER

Print answer here:

Answers tomorrow

Yesterday's Jumbles: CLOTH UNITY MOTION BUCKET

Answer: What those skydiving gunslings were having—A "CHUTE OUT"

THE Daily Crossword by Bruce W. Thompson



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solver

46 Bryce canyon

47 Papal vestment

48 Onit

49 "Pequod"

50 Valley

51 Wordless

52 Absent

53 Head of

54 Study

55 Study

56 Study

57 Study

58 Study

59 Study

60 Study

61 Study

62 Study

63 Study

Economy

Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE	TOKYO CLOSE
Sterling Pound	1.5230	1.5183
Deutsche Mark	1.5928	1.5961
Swiss Franc	1.4360	1.4423
French Franc	5.3680	5.4033
Japanese Yen	124.75	124.56
European Currency Unit	1.2351	1.2278

Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.25	3.81	3.87	4.18
Sterling Pound	7.18	7.06	6.68	6.43
Deutsche Mark	8.87	8.87	9.16	7.93
Swiss Franc	6.43	6.63	6.50	6.06
French Franc	9.25	9.37	9.12	8.62
Japanese Yen	3.75	3.70	3.56	3.56
European Currency Unit	10.18	10.15	9.68	9.06

Gold and Silver

Commodity	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	333.95	6.70
Silver	3.74	0.80

Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.689	0.691
Sterling Pound	1.0497	1.0445
Deutsche Mark	0.4310	0.4332
Swiss Franc	0.4766	0.4790
French Franc	0.1279	0.1285
Japanese Yen	0.5521	0.5549
Dutch Guilder	0.3831	0.3850
Swedish Krona	0.1144	0.1150
Italian Lira	0.0506	0.0509
Belgian Franc	0.02098	0.02108

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Librair Dinar	1.8050	1.8200
Shamir Lira	0.0345	0.0375
Israeli Lira	0.1635	0.1645
Lebanese Lira	2.2900	2.5000
Yemeni Lira	0.1867	0.1878
Yemeni Pound	0.2000	0.2100
Yemeni Riyal	1.7600	1.7700
Yemeni Dirham	0.1867	0.1878
Yemeni Drachma	0.3325	0.3625
Yemeni Pound	1.4450	1.4650

Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	15/11/92	Close	16/11/92	Close
Share	157.90		158.12	
Banking Sector	117.92		117.98	
Insurance Sector	173.49		174.74	
Industry Sector	209.39		209.71	
Services Sector	225.82		226.59	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

Following are the buying and selling rates for gold world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

Currency	15/11/92	Close	16/11/92	Close
sterling	1.5150/60		1.5150/60	
U.S. dollar	1.2760/65		1.2760/65	
U.S. dollar	1.6033/43		1.6033/43	
U.S. dollar	1.7990/805		1.7990/805	
U.S. dollar	1.4540/50		1.4540/50	
U.S. dollar	32.86/90		32.86/90	
U.S. dollar	5.3960/4010		5.3960/4010	
U.S. dollar	1364/1366		1364/1366	
U.S. dollar	124.69/74		124.69/74	
U.S. dollar	6.0200/50		6.0200/50	
U.S. dollar	6.5040/90		6.5040/90	
U.S. dollar	6.1320/70		6.1320/70	
ounce of gold	\$333.60/334.00		\$333.60/334.00	

Russian economy set to slide further next year

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russia's economy is set to shrink by more than a fifth this year and a further five to seven per cent in 1993, according to central bank figures published by Interfax News Agency Tuesday.

Gross domestic product (GDP) will decrease by 21 to 23 per cent in real terms this year.

The bank's report painted a bleak picture of Russia's economy, which has sunk into deep recession as the discredited communist system is dismantled to make way for a free market.

Inflation topped 25 per cent in September and is expected to reach an annual rate of 2,200 per cent by December, according to the bank's estimates.

Government investment has fallen by 55 per cent. Trade turnover fell by a third in the first nine months, with exports declining faster than imports. As a result, Russia had a trade deficit of \$2.2 billion.

The bank said it expected the crisis to continue into 1993, and government measures to stimulate production were not likely to make an impact until the second half of the year.

GDP will drop by a further five to seven per cent in real terms in 1993, while industrial production will slump by 12 to 15 per cent.

Meanwhile inflation will settle at about 10 to 12 per cent per month and unemployment, officially non-existent under communism, is likely to hit three to five million by the end of next year out of Russia's total population of 150 million.

The rouble slid to a new low of 448 to the dollar Tuesday on fears that Russia could be flooded with large amounts of roubles after Ukraine's decision to dump the currency, officials said.

Sergei Novikov, a spokesman for the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange (MICEK), said the rouble tumbled from its previous low of 419 at last Thursday's session because of a fresh surge of demand for dollars.

He linked it to Ukraine's decision last week to stop using the rouble in banking transactions and make its own interim currency, the coupon, the only legal tender.

The rouble has fallen dramatically from around 165 to the dollar in August, mainly because of fears over inflation, which is now expected to reach 2,000 per cent this year.

ITAR-TASS news agency, quoting central bank sources, said at the weekend that the bank had resolved not to let the rate exceed 500 and had prepared a package of measures to support the currency at or above this level.

Mr. Novikov said there was a degree of "fright" over the Ukrainian move. "As a result, some banks fear big rouble sums will flow to Russia from Ukraine."

Trading volume was \$69.6 million, with starting demand of \$78.37 sharply exceeding initial offers to sell \$54.65 million.

The central bank is expected to start issuing government bonds in an attempt to mop up excess roubles in circulation, a step that could support the currency and help to stabilise inflation, Mr. Novikov said.

Several hundred billion roubles' worth of bonds are expected to be issued, with the first tranche in December.

The bank is also likely to intervene on the market to support the rouble by selling dollars. Mr. Novikov said it intervened Tuesday but declined to say to what extent.

Central bank chief Viktor Gerashchenko criticised the policy of intervention shortly after his appointment in July, saying this had cost Russia \$500 million in the first half of 1992 which should have been used to service foreign debt.

The conservative Gerashchenko was named a member of President Boris Yeltsin's radical government Monday in a surprise move that could challenge parliament's sole control of the central bank. There was no immediate explanation for the appointment.

The central banker, who controls the money supply, has clashed repeatedly with reformist ministers who accuse him of fuelling inflation through a lax credit policy.

The government says the rouble has fallen to unrealistically low levels. Finance Minister Vasily Baranov said at the weekend the dollar's "artificial rise" was because only small amounts of hard currency from exports were being channelled to MICEK.

Last week Economics Minister Andrei Nekuchayev said the government would eventually have to adopt a policy obliging exporters to sell all their hard currency revenues on the domestic market for roubles.

At the moment they must sell only half of their foreign ex-

change and can retain the remainder.

Twice-weekly MICEK sessions provide an opportunity for about 50 banks and companies to buy and sell foreign exchange. The MICEK rate serves as a benchmark for the central bank.

Despite its abandonment by Ukraine and the three Baltic states, the rouble is still legal tender in most of the 15 former Soviet republics.

President Yeltsin and his cabinet Monday drafted an "anti-crisis plan" to get Russia through the winter, but rejected opposition demands to freeze prices and slow reforms.

The government also decided to charge world prices for sales of oil, gas and other natural resources to former Soviet republics that no longer use the rouble, chief economic spokesman Alexander Ulyukayev told a news conference.

"This is what we have in mind: Not to subsidise the economies of neighbouring states," Mr. Ulyukayev said.

Mr. Ulyukayev's remarks followed a cabinet meeting to complete the government's four-month anti-crisis plan and a draft budget for 1993. The programme, to be submitted to lawmakers next week, will shore up Russian industries through subsidies and tax breaks, as well as tariffs on some foreign imports, he said.

Russia's military budget will stay roughly at the same level next year, Mr. Ulyukayev added. The government will spend less on weapons production, but this savings has been offset by housing and relocation costs for troops returning from eastern Europe and the Baltic states, he said.

Military spending this year accounted for 1.88 trillion roubles (\$4.2 billion) or 16 per cent of Russia's state budget.

Mr. Yeltsin's government has faced rising pressure from the increasingly powerful Civic Union parliamentary bloc to slow reforms. Civic Union, which includes factory managers and key figures such as Vice President Alexander Rutskoi, has demanded a freeze on prices and wages — steps that Mr. Yeltsin rejected last week.

Mr. Ulyukayev said Civic Union's plan lack practical mechanisms for improving Russia's economy.

"It generally sounds like: 'It's better to be rich and healthy than poor and ill,'" Mr. Ulyukayev said. But Civic Union offers no prescription for making Russia rich and healthy, he added.

The demand for world prices from nations that have left the "rouble zone" follows Ukraine's move last week to ban the Russian rouble in the second-most populous former republic.

"If Ukraine has already moved to its own national currency, let it immediately start paying us in foreign currency," Mr. Yeltsin was quoted by ITAR-TASS as telling the cabinet.

This also applies to Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and those commonwealth countries that will move to national currencies, he said.

Too many republics have bought Russian fuel or raw materials for roubles, and then sold them abroad at higher prices for foreign currency, Mr. Ulyukayev said. These republics from now on will have to pay Russia in foreign currency, the rouble equivalent or goods, he said.

Lithuania recently agreed to pay world prices for a guaranteed supply of Russian oil and gas in 1992 and 1993.

The agreement would be a model for future sales of Russian resources to other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States which have banned the rouble, Mr. Ulyukayev said.

Besides Ukraine and Lithuania, the other republics which have replaced the Russian currency are Latvia and Estonia. Tajikistan, Moldova and others are considering similar moves.

Mr. Ulyukayev also said the government expects a 70 per cent inflation rate next year and a budget deficit of 4.8 per cent of GNP. Earlier this month, Finance Minister Vasily Baranov told the Interfax news agency that the 1993 budget deficit would be more than 6.5 per cent of the gross national product (GNP).

Inflation soared to 300 per cent to 400 per cent a month earlier this year after the government lifted price controls on most goods and services, then settled down to about 10 per cent a month.

In other economic developments Monday:

— Mr. Yeltsin signed a decree limiting the privatisation of oil and gas companies, power and communications utilities and other key state-owned enterprises. It allows the government to retain a controlling share for up to three years.

— The deputy chairman of Russia's state property committee said the first auctions of enterprises for privatisation vouchers will be held Dec. 15 in several cities, including Moscow, St. Petersburg, Vladimir and Perm.

Two Omani banks agree on merger

DUBAI (R) — Bank of Muscat and Al Bank Al Ahli Al Omani, 20 per cent owned by France's Societe Generale, announced Monday an agreement in principle to merge.

The two banks said in a joint statement they have "in principle agreed to merge the activities...into one new bank."

The totally Omani-owned Bank of Muscat has assets worth 136 million Omani riyals (\$354 million) and reported an operating profit of 2.18 million riyals (\$5.67 million) for calendar 1991.

Eighty per cent of Al Bank Al Ahli Al Omani's shares are held by private Omani investors. The bank's total assets are valued at 92 million riyals (\$239 million). It has an operating profit of 1.5 million riyals (\$3.9 million) in 1991.

The statement said the merger and the new bank's name will be announced after shareholders formally ratify the move at a later date.

Japan unveils steps to help battered stock market

TOKYO (R) — Japan's finance ministry unveiled a rescue plan Tuesday to boost the battered stock market as the key Nikkei share average slid below the 16,000 level for the first time in nearly three months.

The private sector measures aim to ensure that fair prices are set on new share issues and to make it easier to buy new stocks.

They would also lengthen the season for offering new stocks, shorten the time between primary and secondary sales of new issues and ensure that investors have adequate information to make decisions.

The Tokyo Stock Exchange and Japan Securities Dealers Association (JSDA) will be responsible for devising specific rules to implement the plan by the end of December. The steps will take effect in January, a ministry official said.

Brokers said the measures, which had been expected, might temporarily stem further drastic falls in share prices, but added that they were unlikely to spark a rally.

"The finance ministry's comments didn't boost sentiment, but did halt selling," said Tadashi Kawakami at Merrill Lynch Japan.

Tokyo share prices opened sharply lower Tuesday, with the Nikkei falling 174.73 points or 1.08 per cent to 15,988.26 in the first nine minutes. It had last traded below 16,000 on Aug. 21.

Futures-linked selling dragged down prices as worries about slumping corporate earnings, political uncertainty and weak overseas markets battered sentiment.

But the release of the latest market rescue plan sparked buying back of some shares and the Nikkei regained the 16,000 level to finish the morning down 89.37 points at 16,073.62.

Finance minister Tsutomu Hata attributed the latest share price drop to worries about when the real economy would touch bottom and about corporate earnings, as well as fears about the consequences of stalled budgetary debate in parliament.

The measures were originally to be worked out by the end of March, but the plan was stepped up because of the market's persistent sluggishness, the official said.

Brokers were unimpressed by the plan, which had been set to be announced sometime this week.

"The rule changes will be helpful when the market is in better shape and more companies start thinking about issuing new equity," said Masaharu Sakudo of Tachibana Securities. "But, it doesn't look like a cure for what ails the market now."

Lack of tanker wagons causes Bulgarian fuel crisis

SOFIA (R) — Bulgaria is starting to suffer petrol shortages because too many of its railway tankers have disappeared in the former Yugoslav republics, rail officials said Tuesday.

Over 1,000 Bulgarian railway tankers, owned by the state but also used by private and foreign firms, have not been returned after delivering fuel to the former Yugoslav republics of Macedonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"As a result of the serious deficiency of railway oil wagons, we cannot supply all the filling stations — although we have enough oil products," Bodo Doganyan, chairman of the state-owned petrol company told Reuters.

Chile predicts 8% growth

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — Finance Minister Alejandro Foxley said the Chilean economy will grow by around eight per cent in 1992, while inflation will remain curbed at 13 per cent.

He said unemployment will be at a two-decade record low of 4.5 per cent by the end of the year. It stands at around 5.1 per cent now.

He warned, however, against excess optimism. He said a "decisive fight against poverty" remains the central goal for the government of President Patricio Aylwin in the 17 months left of his four-year term.

Mr. Foxley said the 1993 budget of \$11.5 billion will include \$6 billion in social spending — housing, health, education — a seven per cent increase from this year.

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Cinema Tel: 634144 PHILADELPHIA They're Playing With Fire Shows: 12:30 - 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 Thursdays & Fridays children shows at 11:00 a.m. PROBLEM CHILD

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Security Council seeks to plug oil, coal leaks to Yugoslavia

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Frustrated by oil and other contraband goods reaching Yugoslavia, the Security Council imposed a naval embargo allowing governments to step and search ships along the Adriatic coast and the Danube River.

The resolution was adopted late Monday by a 13-0 vote with China and Zimbabwe abstaining following a two-day council debate with more than 40 speakers, many of them dissatisfied with the 15-member body did not go further to stop the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In an effort to plug loopholes in a U.N. trade embargo against Yugoslavia, the resolution also decrees that a long list of commodities, including oil, coal, metals, rubber, engines and tyres, may not be trans-shipped through Serbia and Montenegro unless the Security Council's Sanctions Committee has been notified.

The sanctions were imposed on May 31 because of Belgrade's assistance to Serbs battling the Muslim-led Bosnian government. More than 15,000 people have been killed in the fighting.

The United States has accused several foreign companies of sanctions-busting, saying Yugoslavia was awash with oil.

The measures dealing with a maritime embargo specifically invoke the mandatory Chapter VII provisions of the U.N. Charter, which raise the possibility of force in case of non-compliance.

It calls on all states to stop and search ships in order to inspect and verify their cargoes and destinations.

This includes all navies in the Adriatic Sea but restricts action on the Danube River to states such as Bulgaria, Romania and Hungary bordering the waterway. Envoys said the wording, similar to a naval embargo against Iraq, allows monitoring ships to shoot across the bow of a vessel if it did not stop.

In addition, the resolution includes an Austrian proposal that calls on Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to study the creation of safe havens for hundreds of thousands of refugees displaced by seven months of warfare.

The document asks Dr. Ghali to place monitors at border

checkpoints in Bosnia, presumably to prevent the infiltration of fighters and arms.

Meanwhile intense fighting was reported in northern Bosnia Tuesday, casting doubt on assertions by U.N. peacekeepers that the worst of the war in the former Yugoslav Republic might be over.

Bosnian radio reported Serb heavy shelling of Gradacac, the last major Muslim-held town in the north of the country; directed at the town centre and defensive positions around it.

Three people were killed and seven wounded, the radio said, without specifying whether they were civilians or soldiers.

Another Muslim town, Malijaj, was pounded throughout the night by Serb artillery, the radio said, adding: "They are demolishing the town."

Around Brcko, in the northeast, Serbs were reported to have launched a major offensive against Muslim defensive positions and villages in the area.

In Tesanj, to the west of Brcko, the radio reported that

Russians, Chechens disengage forces

MOSCOW (R) — Russia and the breakaway southern region of Chechnya started pulling back their forces from a disputed frontier Tuesday, ITAR-TASS News Agency said.

Chechen Forces started to withdraw in the morning under Monday's agreement which provides for the two sides to withdraw to a distance of eight kilometres from each other.

TASS said Russian troops would follow as soon as they had unblocked the roads and cleared a path through minefields.

Observers from Russia, Chechnya and its neighbour Ingushetia moved into the disengagement area to monitor the agreement.

Russia sent in thousands of Interior Ministry troops and paratroopers two weeks ago to quell fighting in a separate territorial dispute between Ingushetia and Ossetians, another north Caucasian people in the Russian Federation.

More than 250 people had been killed and thousands forced to flee their homes in the fighting.

Russian Television said Tuesday that troop reinforcements were being sent to the Prigorodny district of North Ossetia.

Local officials told TASS there had been sporadic shooting incidents in four districts of North Ossetia and Ingushetia in the past 24 hours. Three militiamen were wounded.

When Russian forces appeared in the east of Ingushetia, Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev accused them of violating land belonging to Chechnya and threatened to declare war.

Moscow says it has no plans to cross into Chechnya.

Ingushetia has no clearly defined borders with Chechnya, which declared independence from Moscow last year and has been a thorn in the side of Russian President Boris Yeltsin ever since.

The Monday agreement followed a series of unsuccessful attempts to defuse tensions between the Russian troops and Chechen forces.

The previous accord was effectively suspended after Moscow accused Gen. Dudayev of personally leading an attack on a Russian post in which one soldier was seriously wounded. Gen. Dudayev denied the accusations.



A young Ingushetian boy carries a large bag with bread which he got from a Russian truck. Russian troops were sent to North Ossetia to calm ethnic violence also entered Ingushetia (AFP Photo)

and charged the Russians with provocation.

Both parties then agreed that they would not regard isolated provocations as a breach of the agreement.

In a separate development, Tajikistan's parliament has failed to make progress towards ending a virtual civil war which has killed hundreds of people in the Central Asian republic.

"We came here to establish peace, but if they do not want us to we shall go back to Dushanbe (the capital)," said Shodmon Yusupov, head of the Tajik Democratic Party which until last week shared power with Muslim activists.

"All these deputies are Communists, peasants, clan leaders.

They want power," Mr. Yusupov told reporters.

The opening session of a long-awaited debate, held under tight security in the pro-Communist northern Leninabad region, broke up after deputies failed to agree on the agenda.

"The deputies could not even confirm the agenda," parliament spokesman Abdul Jabbar Aliyev told reporters.

It was the first meeting of parliament since Rakhmon Nabiyev, a former Communist whose forces have rallied and now control huge areas of territory, was ousted as president in September.

Mr. Nabiyev told the independent Nega News Agency he had not been invited to the session.

IRA threat makes London fear the worst

LONDON (R) — The threat of the IRA exploding a "blockbuster" bomb in the heart of London has prompted a high security alert, a mood of edginess among residents and questions about insurance cover in the British capital.

The Irish Republican Army (IRA) said in a statement Monday it was "sheer ill luck" that prevented two one-tonne bombs from being set off at the weekend and vowed to continue its campaign.

Security chiefs fear the two thwarted attempts to pull off a spectacular attack on a prestige target in London will make IRA

cells at large in the city even more determined to unsettle the government, discredit the public and gain publicity.

"We'll do our Christmas shopping in the village this year rather than go down to London for the children's presents," said a businessman living in rural Wootton Rivers, two hours from London. "It's just not worth the risk."

A North London resident added: "We are certainly trying to stay out of the centre of town. I try to avoid taking my children down Oxford Street with all this talk of bombing."

Exchange students from the

United States were being telephoned by parents concerned about their safety. Litter bins in the city have been sealed to prevent bombs from being put in them and police are routinely checking trucks for explosives.

Police have appealed to the public to go about their business as usual but to remain vigilant and to report anything suspicious.

Riflemen guarded Prime Minister John Major when he gave a speech Monday night.

"Of course this is not normal security," said one police officer at the entrance to the mediaeval Guildhall where Mr. Major addressed businessmen and diplomats. "But then it's not nor-

mal for people to go around trying to blow up one-tonne bombs."

British insurers are putting pressure on the government to introduce a state compensation scheme for companies whose property is damaged by guerrillas, like a plan that already operates in the battle-scarred province of Northern Ireland.

Leading British insurers are planning to exclude cover on what they call "terrorist damage" of commercial properties, sending shivers down the spines of businessmen who fear they will not be given or will not be able to afford cover.

U.N. to threaten sanctions against Khmer Rouge

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Secretary-General Boutros Ghali has proposed that U.N. peacekeepers patrol the Cambodian-Thai border in an attempt to cut off lucrative gems and lumber routes used by the Khmer Rouge guerrillas.

At the same time, France has drafted a Security Council resolution for discussion with the United States, China, Britain and Russia, that would threaten economic sanctions against the Khmer Rouge but not impose them immediately.

The secretary-general, in a draft report, obtained by Reuters, recommended the Council take action against the continuing refusal of the Khmer Rouge,

responsible for killing more than a million Cambodians in the 1970s, to respect a Paris peace treaty it signed a year ago.

The militarily-strong guerrillas have refused to disarm their fighters and allow people in areas they control to register for the country's first elections in May.

The Party of Democratic Kampuchea (Khmer Rouge) has clearly demonstrated that it is unlikely to change its attitude of non-cooperation in the foreseeable future," he said.

In response to Dr. Ghali's report, the draft resolution would authorise the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) to establish border checkpoints in support of a decision by

Cambodia's Supreme National Council to ban exports of logs and other items, diplomats said.

The secretary-general will then be asked to report on Khmer Rouge cooperation with UNTAC before any sanctions would be enacted. These might include prohibiting oil supplies and freezing any other assets, they added.

But it is questionable whether sanctions or border controls can be enforced against smugglers and others, despite pledges from the Bangkok government.

"The idea is not to have sanctions implemented immediately," said one French source. "They are going to be mentioned in the resolution but implemented only

if they really hamper the peace and election process."

Unclear yet is whether there will be a date set for Khmer Rouge compliance before sanctions are imposed and at what point they will be permitted to join the election process for a Constituent Assembly.

Some diplomats advocate Jan. 31, the end of voter registration, as the final date for compliance and for participation of the Khmer Rouge in the May elections.

French officials, however, lean towards leaving the door open for the Khmer Rouge and the estimated 14 per cent of the population it controls to join up to the last minute.

Bonn SPD backs tighter asylum laws

BONN (R) — Germany's opposition Social Democrats (SPD), in a major policy shift, have backed tougher laws on political asylum to stem an uncontrolled wave of immigration.

The SPD decided at an extraordinary congress, which opened Monday, to reverse its long-time support for Europe's most liberal asylum laws and agreed to tighten them by amending Bonn's post-war constitution.

Party leaders want to open negotiations with Chancellor Helmut Kohl's government Thursday to work out ways to deal with an

unprecedented influx of immigrants, due to double this year to 500,000.

The migrant wave from Eastern Europe and the Third World, roughly equal to the population of a city like Nuremberg, has dominated German politics. It has been blamed for everything from housing shortages to a surge in neo-Nazi violence.

SPD leader Bjoern Engholm, who almost saw the party split over his compromise plan, warned that Bonn must act or watch German politics lurch to the right.

"If we don't find a consensus, we will all lose," he told the congress at the end of a five-hour debate.

Mr. Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU), who need SPD support for any constitutional amendment, have so far criticised the party's plan as insufficient.

They want tougher measures to slash even further the right to asylum, which most applicants fail to win because they cannot prove they were politically persecuted.

Clinton declares new unity era but disagreements persist

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas (R) — President-Elect Bill Clinton has declared a "new era of cooperation" between the White House and Congress but vowed to press on with a pledge to lift a ban on gays in the military despite opposition from some Democrats.

Mr. Clinton, Vice President-Elect Al Gore and the Democratic high command in Congress — Senate majority leader George Mitchell, House of Representatives Speaker Thomas Foley and House majority leader Richard Gephardt — spoke in glowing terms of opportunities afforded by the breaking of a 12-year Republican lock on the White House.

The new government partners made compromising noises at a news conference after a private parley over beef tenderloin at Clinton's home Sunday evening.

"Our dinner last night marks a new era of cooperation and action in our nation's capital," Mr. Clinton said. "I don't want a continuation of the 'cold war' between the Congress and the White House. Pennsylvania Avenue will run both ways again."

It sounded, however, like he was doing most of the compromising.

The president-elect said he still wanted to cut the White House staff by 25 per cent but would not pressure Congress to do the same as he had done during the campaign. He said he had been told Congress had already made some staff reductions.

And Mr. Clinton said he would have an active first 100 days in office, as he has promised, but made clear he was not setting a deadline for action. Both Mr. Foley and Sen. Mitchell had expressed dislike for any such artificial deadline.

"I will be in a hurry and I will work hard as I can, as long hours

as I can, but I don't have an agenda which says we're going to do this in 100 days and this in 200 days," Mr. Clinton said.

He said he wanted to fulfil his campaign pledge for a middle-class tax cut paid for by higher taxes on the rich, but suggested this could be in danger because of concerns about the budget deficit.

Mr. Clinton said it was possible the Bush administration was understanding the deficit and that this might be worse than he believed.

Mr. Foley sounded a conciliatory note on the oft-sought line-item veto that would allow the president to disapprove individual items without vetoing an entire bill. The speaker offered to work for giving Mr. Clinton such power if he would accept override by simple majority rather than the current two-thirds congressional vote.

But the controversial Clinton campaign pledge to end the traditional ban against homosexuals in the U.S. military provided evidence he may face some tough clashes even with those of his own party.

Senator Sam Nunn, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Sunday came out strongly against lifting the ban, saying homosexuals could be put in physical danger of retribution if Mr. Clinton acted too quickly.

Mr. Clinton flies to Washington Wednesday to meet Mr. Bush at the White House and continue discussions with congressional leaders, this time including Republicans.

Mr. Clinton is forgoing some of the trappings of office as he prepares for his first trip to Washington since the election.

President Bush offered Mr. Clinton a military jet for his travels and the use of the official visitors' mansion, Blair House,

for his stay.

"We said, 'thanks, but no thanks, not this trip,'" Dee Dee Myers, Mr. Clinton's press secretary, said Monday.

"One, it's expensive to cover the cost of staying at Blair House and, two, staff couldn't stay there," she said. "It was a gracious invitation, but we decided to stay with our original plan."

As for the military jet, that too would cost more than the charter, she said, and with a transition budget of \$3.5 million it was not worth the expense.

Instead of Blair House, the Clinton entourage has booked into the next closest place, the Hay-Adams Hotel, just across Lafayette Park from the executive mansion.

With just a single night in the capital Wednesday, Mr. Clinton's schedule was full — including visits to the White House during the day and to the capitol Thursday.

Mr. Clinton has opened a transition office in Washington to, among other things, begin reviewing the thousands of resumes from people seeking jobs in the new administration.

He said Monday he was working on the list of people he might ask to join his cabinet, but had nothing yet to reveal.

"I have spent hours on it. I have interviewed no one, on purpose. I'm not ready for that yet," he said at a news conference with Democratic congressional leaders.

Some job candidates probably don't need to be interviewed. Among them, former South Carolina Gov. Richard Riley, an old friend of Mr. Clinton's who visited with the president-elect at the Arkansas governor's mansion on Monday night.

Mr. Riley has been rumoured to be Mr. Clinton's choice for secretary of education.

COLUMBIA

Indian baby sold for 75 cents

NEW DELHI (R) — A woman whose husband sold her one baby for the equivalent of 75 cents, the Press Trust reported Tuesday. Going to, 28, delivered a baby hospital in Bolnagar in the state of Orissa on Nov. 9 the infant to a woman at the hospital for 20 rupees (about 30 cents), who in turn sold the baby to a woman for 75 cents. Indian families consider a daughter a curse; they are expected to dowries when the man groom and his family.

Dial O for obscenity

ISLAMABAD (R) — Police have arrested a 15-year-old boy accused of making telephone calls and hints to all kinds of families, said. Usman Zia, 13, was under the Telegraph making an "obscene" woman councillor in Ri in what is believed to be such arrest in Pakistan members said. Police a grant bail to the school senior judge complained Minister Nawaz Sharif calls, the family said.

Pisa tower panel leans towards collapse

PISA, Italy (R) — The tee appointed to save the leaning Tower of Pisa has quit unless the gov approved more money monument. The 56-metre which was built in 1173 five metres off its perch was closed in January cause experts said it was to the public. Last May placed steel rings around part of the mounting pressure from the lean. Funds are needed to step, in which builders 800 tonnes of lead to base of the tower, as move to keep it from further.

Dutch raise the ante in war on gambling

AMSTERDAM (R) — Dutch government said to ban around 10 machines, or one-arm to stem an alarming rise in gambling addiction. The would take more than implement, would at machines which have make rare, very large. They account for a fifth of the figures from the are most common in arcades. A spokeswoman Dutch Welfare and Health estimated that up to the country's 15 million were now hooked on it.

Superman exp to cheat death

NEW YORK (R) — announced by DC months ago, Superman dust in this week's there's already talk of steel is coming back of the figures from the make the most Maggie Thompson, a Comic Buyer's Guide, very unlikely that he expired. I don't see Comics) laying off any said, DC Comics has any immediate plans; Superman back to life, continuing the "Superman" for another eight week series called "Funeral Friend" which exp world's reaction to his death.

Clinton insult triggers police probe

NICOSIA (R) — A Cypriot newspaper may sue for publishing a headline telling U.S. President Bill Clinton in Police in breakaway Nicosia said they had been investigate whether the paper had broken the Nov. 12 edition, which had a rude cartoon. Vicious circulation of just over 100 copies was reported to be close to Cypriot leader Rauf Denktas who took part in U.S. Cyprus which ended last week. Mr. Clinton has been criticised for the Turkish occupation northern third of the island.